Maryland Numismatist

Collecting Silver Ounces

Dues are due! Renewal form page 21
Exhibit application pages 18-20

Winter, 2016 Volume 44 – No. 4

The Maryland State Numismatic Association, Inc.

The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

http://mdstatenumisassn.org

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EDITOR

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****

The Board of Directors of MSNA is composed of the officers, past presidents and club representatives as listed to the right.

****

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

ANA # C-73593 LC-42

****

LIFE MEMBER CLUBS

#-1 Baltimore Coin Club
#-2 Carroll County Coin Club
#-3 Maryland Token & Medal Society
#-4 South Glen Burnie Coin Club
#-5 Colonial Coin Club
#-6 Bowie Coin Club

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Montgomery County Coin Club

****

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Each member club of MSNA shall appoint a representative who will serve on the board and will exercise their club's vote on any matter arising.

****

PAST PRESIDENTS:
Frank Murphy
Scott Barman
Simcha Kuritzky

****

Club Mailing Address:

MSNA
Post Office Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504

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President's Message

I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to those members of our member clubs who volunteered time and effort at the most recent Whitman Coin Expo at the Baltimore Convention Center: some worked at the registration tables, some sold MSNA raffle tickets, some answered queries from the attending public and provided general information about the show and scheduled meetings. Some did all of the above. This level of volunteerism and the associated commitment to the hobby, its organizations, and its events is what makes any endeavor or association successful.

Congratulations to those who bought the winning raffle tickets that were drawn at the Whitman show. We had three winners from Maryland (Aberdeen via the Bel-Mar Coin Club, Baltimore, and Rockville) and one winner from New Jersey. Enjoy the gold and silver prizes. It is my hope that many again participate in our raffle for this coming year. The MSNA raffle continues to be one of our primary organization income sources.

At our annual meeting in November, the MSNA board discussed my intent to survey our member clubs as I mentioned in the last issue of the *Maryland Numismatist*. The Board agreed to review and comment on a draft survey that I will propose at our next board meeting. The simple goal of the survey is to provide the Board the insight to better serve the MSNA membership and its member clubs. We will formulate a survey that will be easy to respond to and hopefully provides the mechanism for member clubs and their MSNA representatives to better engage with the MSNA organization at large.

We recently received a request for one of our Vauxhall Drinking Institution souvenir sheets we issued in 2000. The request is from a historian at George Mason University in Virginia who is researching antebellum shinplaster notes. We are happy to help out this research effort. I'm also happy that the researcher found us - and the fact that we had issued such a souvenir sheet - via the MSNA website.

With friends and family, enjoy the upcoming holiday season!

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Membership Report

The MSNA by-laws require the treasurer to prepare an annual report on the membership. While our membership year ends December 31, 2016, it is highly unlikely we will get any payments of 2016 or prior year dues in the next month, so I am giving the report now for this year and all years back to 2010. The transition to using an on-line printer and mailing house is now complete, and I will separate the mailing of membership cards and dues notices from the journal production cycle.

MSNA has six types of membership. Regular, club and junior members must pay each year. Life, club life, and honorary life members are inducted once and stay members until they pass away, the club is dissolved, or they resign. Honorary life members become life members immediately, while regular and club life members must be a member in good standing the three years previous. So the only changes to life membership are new members and deceased members, while regular members can join, renew (which can be paid in advance or arrears), lapse, or return after a lapse of at least one year.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Regular							
New	4	7	3	4	3	1	1
Renewed	46	48	43	41	40	36	30
Returned	3		1	4	2	1	4
Convert to LM	-1	-1	-2		-2	-3	-1
Lapsed	-7	-4	-10	-6	-7	-6	-7
Total	53	55	47	49	45	38	35

Note: Total = New + Renewed + Returned = Previous Total + New + Returned – Convert to LM – Lapsed

Life							
Begin	65	67	66	67	67	69	70
Honorary	1	1	1				
New	2	1	1	2	2	3	1
Deceased	-1	-3	-1	-2		-2	-1
End	67	66	67	67	69	70	70
Combined	120	121	114	116	114	108	100

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What Have I Done?

I have handled, developed and sold many of the finest rare coin collections in the country including:

- Rare Colonial issues, including several 1792 issues
- Assemblage of specialized collections of all early U.S. coins by die variety
- Sale of the Wilkison Gold Pattern Collection in 1973
- Participation as a bourse dealer at hundreds of local, regional and national coin shows and conventions
- Attendance at every major U.S. auction held since 1968, representing as many as 25 bidders at the same time
- Consultation to corporations, dealers, and collectors in order to develop, build and expand collections as well as being instrumental in the promotion of the numismatic hobby
- Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Professional Numismatists Guild

What Can I Do For You?

With total confidentiality, I will tailor my services to fit your needs, and:

- Assist in the formation (or location) of any U.S. coin or currency collection
- Counsel collectors, dealers and corporations on any aspect of the numismatic business or hobby
- Act as personal representative for any numismatic transaction at a maximum commission of 10%
- Appraise collections or individual pieces on an hourly basis
- Assist in the orderly disposition of holdings at current values

LM #664

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Collecting World Silver an Ounce at a Time

by Mark Benvenuto, MSNA #R-825

There is something about the feel of a big coin when we hold it that hits a primal chord in virtually all collectors. We like that heft, that weight, that density. One can argue this is part of the reason big coins are always popular. Seriously, by comparison, how many people have we ever known who collected a full set of the tiny "Panama pill" coins (they're just too small to be fun). Yet when it comes to forming handsome collections of big coins, sometimes the price tags get in the way. So what about finding some affordable way to put together an assembly of big silver? What about collecting one-ounce silver bullion coins?

U.S. Silver Eagle

Perhaps the obvious place to start when it comes to one-ounce silver coins is our own U.S. silver Eagles. We don't have the oldest program among the world's mints, but we do have one that has taken a leading spot in the world when it comes to attractive one-ounce silver coins for everyone from small investors to big traders. A person can basically collect one per year all the way back to 1986, and if they collect what might be called the "regular" issues, will not pay much more than the price of the silver in each coin.

Proof Silver Eagles

Also going back to 1986 are the proof versions of the silver Eagles. These were never made just to be silver bullion coins; rather, these have always been collector items. Curiously, if we choose to buy them in their original holders, or in some similar fashion, the premium attached to them is not really that high. If we go for certified pieces – meaning those encapsulated by some reputable third party grading service – well, now we are paying for the attached, official grade. The coveted PF-70 grade can at times cost quite a bit. Going down a notch or two to grades such as PF-69 or PF-68 will ease the stress on one's wallet. Whatever grade we choose to buy though, proof silver Eagles will look tremendous.

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http://www.coinshows.com/westminster_co.html

Anyone who has kept an eye on the program knows there are some other options in the series, as well as one screaming rarity. Reverse proofs, enhanced uncirculated, and burnished finishes are now part of our collecting options, and the 1995-W has become what we might call an artificial rarity – although that seems to have done nothing to diminish collectors' love of it. When it comes to building a collection, any of these options are possible, but all of them will cost a bit.

North to the Maple Leaves

Our northern neighbor had jumped into the business of silver one-ounce coins several years before we did. Anyone who wishes to expand a collection of big silver to the silver Canadian Maple Leaf coins – or start one there, for that matter – can go back as far as 1979. Once again, the choice becomes whether to collect the regular issues or something more upscale like the proofs. Both have their allure. The proofs have higher price tags – but because the collector base for Canadian coins in the U.S. is not huge, the premiums for proof Maple Leaves are not really all that high.

South to the *Libertads*

The Mexican *Libertad* is too often a coin that collectors overlook, yet it is only the current iteration of a centuries-old production of silver from what was first New Spain and later the independent nation we know as Mexico. It is fair to say that the *Libertads* are the younger siblings of the much older pieces of eight, the 8 reales, and then of the Mexican pesos that have fueled a great deal of global trade since the late 1500's.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NUMISMATISTS

PAN Spring Coin Show and Convention

May 4, 5, and 6, 2017

Wed: Dealer Set Up 3 pm - 7 pm
Thurs: Dealer Set Up 9 am - noon

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Thursday: noon - 6 pm
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Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

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The current *Libertads* have their start in 1982, and have plenty of dates in the years since then when mintages were very high. This is great news for anyone thinking about building any set of them. As with their U.S. and Canadian counterparts, prices for those coins that were "made to trade" as it were, are pretty close to the price of silver metal.

The fine folks in the *Casa de Moneda* have also seen fit to produce proof versions of the silver *Libertad*, as they are fully aware of the collector potential. These too are collectible today, and yes, do command some premium simply because they are proofs.

Overseas

A person could have a lot of fun just collecting a few of each of the one-ounce, silver bullion coins of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, then seeing how they could grow a collection from there. But as someone wise once said, "It's a big world out there." The phrase certainly applies here, as there are silver one-ounce bullion coins produced in Great Britain, China, Australia, Austria, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, the Isle of Man, and a host of other countries. The Chinese Pandas have become popular coins in the past couple of decades, and are well known in collector circles. It's a safe bet that the one-ounce silver *Irbis* coins of Kazakhstan (which portray an ounce cat) are not as popular – or as well known. Yet a person might very well enjoy hunting for one of each of these world one-ounce pieces, or finding the ones we haven't even mentioned. The prices are probably not that different from those of the Eagles, Maple Leaves, and *Libertads*.

Conclusion

Whether you have been a long-time collector of U.S. silver Eagles and have only recently looked at some of the big silver from overseas, or whether you have never taken a moment to sneak a peek at these big, silver, one-ounce bullion coins, now might be a very good time to stare in earnest. There is some great potential in collecting these big, silver coins.

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Happy New Year!

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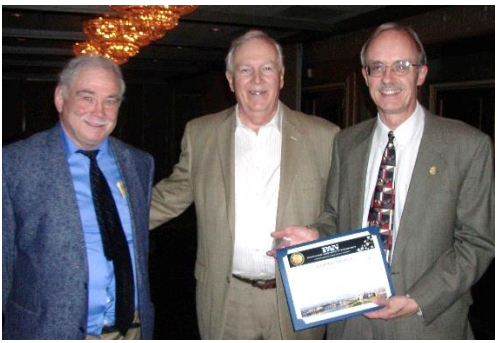
Local News

Congratulations to former MSNA President **Donald Curtis**, whose article on the British Waterloo medal won *Maryland Numismatist* best article of 2015/16. He received $50 to spend at the November Whitman Show.

The 2016 MSNA gold raffle results were as follows: first prize $10 American Eagle gold coin was won by Kim Lapchak; sold by the Baltimore Coin Club who was awarded a gold Mexican 2 pesos 1920; second prize 1907 Liberty Head $2.50 gold won by Brandon Frei; third prize gold Mexican 2½ pesos 1945 won by Tom Jones; and fourth prize 2012P Star Spangled Banner uncirculated silver dollar in folder won by the Bel-Mar Coin Club. The annual meeting was held at the Whitman Coin Expo. The current slate of officers were renewed with vice president still vacant.



MSNA Treasurer and Editor **Simcha Kuritzky** and Secretary **Bryce Doxzon**, both won exhibit awards at the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) convention in October. Bryce's exhibit *They Also Ran* (medals of 19th Century losing presidential candidates) won first place in the tokens and medals class. Simcha's exhibit on Dutch Israel gold fantasy coins won second place in tokens and medals and his exhibit on Branch Davidian paper money won first place in the paper money class.

The **Montgomery County Coin Club** President **Kenneth Swab** spoke in October on the history of two national banks of Havana, New York. In November, former MSNA President **Scott Barman** spoke on the U.S. Mint's Forum held in Philadelphia. The December 13 meeting will feature the annual donated auction for the Boy Scouts Potomac District.

The **Washington Numismatic Society** in October played a National Geographic video on the historic vessel *S.S. Republic* which sank in 1865 along with a large quantity of U.S. gold and silver coins that it was transporting to New Orleans. In November, they played a game based on

Timeline, where contestants put numismatic events in their proper sequence. WNS will hold its semi-annual pot-luck dinner at the December 20 meeting at the Community of Christ Church, 3526 Massachusetts Ave NW, DC two blocks from the Naval Observatory.

Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
First				Baltimore
Second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, Western Maryland	Belmar, Catonsville, Middle River	
Third	Colonial (sometimes), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc.		Baltimore
Fourth	Carroll County	Bowie	Middle River	MSNA Board

OCEAN CITY COIN and CURRENCY SHOW
Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center
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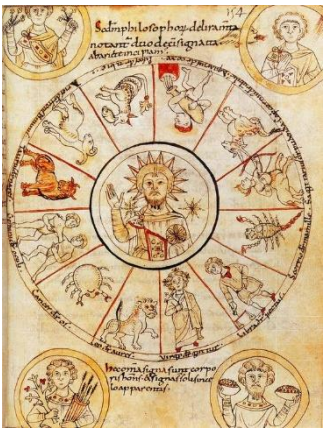
What's Your Sign?

Part Thirty-Four: Mexican One Ounce Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

An unusual set of Mexican silver zodiac medals shows a radiant Helios bust inside a circle, with the twelve zodiac signs surrounding, starting with Aries at eleven o'clock and proceeding counter-clockwise. At top is *Una Onza Troy Plata Pura – Ley 999* (One Ounce Troy Pure Silver – 999 Fine). The bottom legend is *Zodiaco en un manuscrito latino del Siglo XI* (Zodiac in an 11th Century Latin manuscript). This image appears in *The Hermetic Museum: Alchemy and Mysticism* by Alexander Ruba. Surrounding the zodiac wheel are the four seasons. The book claimed the image may be from the Thirteenth Century and the Helios figure could represent Jesus, though there is no cruciform halo which was standard in those days for depictions of Jesus. Each of the twelve medals shows one zodiac sign on their obverse, but strangely, these zodiac figures don't really look like the ones in the manuscript. In particular, the twins are represented by a single standing male. The only obverse inscription is the zodiac sign's name in Spanish, which is not always the same as the Latin.



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ARIES	ARIES	LIBRA	LIBRA
TAURUS	TAURO	SCORPIO	SCORPIO
GEMINI	GEMINIS	SAGITTARIUS	SAGITARIUS
CANCER	CANCER	CAPRICORN	CAPRICORNUS
LEO	LEO	AQUARIUS	ACUARIUS
VIRGO	VIRGO	PISCES	PYSCES

MARYLAND STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
March 30 – April 2, 2017

At: Baltimore Convention Center
One West Pratt St., Baltimore, Maryland

EXHIBIT RULES

1. Exhibit applications should be received no later than February 18, 2017. Applications received after that date will be accepted only if space and cases are available.
2. All exhibits are to be in place by 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, April 1, 2017 and are not to be removed without permission of the Exhibit Chairman prior to 12:00 noon on Sunday, April 2, 2017.
3. It is understood that your exhibit case(s) will be opened ONLY in your presence.
4. All keys are to be retained by the Exhibit Chairman.
5. All materials in a display must be the exclusive property of the exhibitor.
6. Any material in a display which is not genuine must be so identified.
7. The name or identity of exhibitors shall not appear on exhibits.
8. No exhibit shall contain advertising for items that are for sale.
9. The right is reserved to restrict material outside of the exhibit case(s), which might distract attention from other exhibits.
10. The maximum number of cases per single exhibit is six (6). If more than one exhibit is entered by a single exhibitor, there will be a maximum of ten (10) cases total.
11. The awards will include a Best of Show Award, Master (second place) and Superior (third). Appreciation awards will be given to all other exhibitors. Collectors may enter more than one exhibit, but <u>will be entitled to receive only ONE award</u>.

EXHIBIT SET-UP HOURS

Friday	March 31, 2017	9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Saturday	April 1, 2017	9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

EXHIBITS MAY BE REMOVED AFTER 12 NOON ON SUNDAY

EXHIBIT AGREEMENT

This agreement made and entered into this _____ day of _____ 2017 by the **MARYLAND STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC., Baltimore Convention Center, and Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo LLC,** hereinafter referred to as party of the first part; and _____ hereinafter referred to as party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That for and in consideration of the opportunity to exhibit numismatic material which may consist of but shall not be limited to coins, tokens, medals, paper currency, and to compete against other exhibits for awards, the said parties mutually agree as follows:

I. That the party of the first part will provide security guards for the Bourse and Exhibit areas during the period of the show, and the presence of the security guards is provided as a convenience only and is not intended to be an expressed or implied warranty of guarantee against any loss or injury whatsoever.

II. That the party of the second part hereby remits, releases and forever discharges the party of the first part, its officers, committees, member clubs, host clubs, members and employees either in their official corporate capacity, or in their individual or personnel capacity of and from all manner of actions, causes of actions, suits, proceedings, debts, contracts, judgments, damages, claims, and any loss, theft or damage of any kind which may occur to its possessions and exhibits howsoever sustained either directly or indirectly in connection with said convention and show including but not limited to the Bourse-Exhibit area or other convention space, and the street area near the Baltimore Convention Center and that the party of the first part, its officers, committees, club members, host clubs, or employees, may plead this release in bar of any claim demand, or cause of action instituted by the party of the second part.

III. That the party of the second part does, by this instrument, covenant with the said party of the first part to forever refrain from instituting or in any way aiding any claim, demand, action or cause of action, for damages, as a result of any loss or theft to the party of the second part during the said convention and show.

AS WITNESS the following signatures and seals this _____ day of _____, 2017.

MARYLAND STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

BY: _____ (MSNA Official)
Party of the first part

BY: _____ (Exhibitor)
Party of the Second part

BY: _____
Guardian if Exhibitor is under 18 years of age.

MARYLAND STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
March 30 – April 2, 2017
Baltimore Convention Center
One West Pratt St.
Baltimore, Maryland

EXHIBITOR: **(please print)** Date: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: (residence)_____(business)_____

CLUB AFFILIATION(S): _____

_____

MY EXHIBIT WILL BE CLASSIFIED AS: **JUNIOR** _____(UNDER 18)
SENIOR _____

MY EXHIBIT WILL BE: **COMPETITIVE** _____ **NON-COMPETITIVE** _____

TYPE OF NUMISMATIC MATERIAL TO BE EXHIBITED:

U.S. COINS	_____	FOREIGN COINS	_____
U.S. PAPER MONEY	_____	FOREIGN PAPER MONEY	_____
MEDALS	_____	ANCIENT COINS	_____
TOKENS	_____	GOLD	_____

OTHER (Please specify) _____

TITLE OF EXHIBIT: _____

NUMBER OF CASES (Maximum of 6):

_____ I WILL NEED ____ CASES

_____ I HAVE MY OWN CASES _____

CASES TO BE FLAT ON TABLE: **HORIZONTAL**_____**VERTICAL** _____
OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:
_____

MAIL SIGNED APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT TO:

Bryce Doxzon
1712 Langford Road
Baltimore, MD 21207

EXHIBITOR SIGNATURE_____

If exhibitor is under 18 please add
LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE_____

Maryland State Numismatic Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504

Dedicated to attaining knowledge and fulfillment in Numismatics

Membership Application/Renewal

Date: _____ MSNA #:_____ (for renewal)

I hereby apply for membership/renewal in the Maryland State Numismatic Association, Inc., subject to its constitution & by-laws. (Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY: _____STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Tax-deductible donation to MSNA $ _____
If ANA member, please give us the ANA Number _____

The items below are only requested for original membership application:

Numismatic specialties: _____

_____

Other Numismatic Affiliations: _____

Signature: _____

Sponsor No. 1: _____

Sponsor No. 2: _____
For junior membership please include:

Guardian Signature: _____ Birth Year: _____

Fee of $15 (club), $10 (individual) or $2 (under 18) must accompany this form for calendar year dues ($5 individual after August 1). Life member upgrades are: $300 for clubs, $200 (age 50 & under), $125 (51-65), $75 (66 & over). You must be a regular member for 3 years before attaining life membership. Pay by check or money order.

Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

2016

18 Dec. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD; 9-4.

2017

29 Jan. – Westminster Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

4-5 Feb. – Frederick Coin and Currency Show, Elk Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD; 9-4:30.

12 Feb. – Salisbury Annual Coin Show, Loyal Order of Moose, 833 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD; 10-5. Jesse Furry Sr. 302-846-0473.

12 Feb. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD; 9-4.

4-5 Mar. – Interstate Coin Show, Grand Venice Hotel, 431 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

12 Mar. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Elks Lodge, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

19 Mar. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD; 9-4.

30 Mar.-2 Apr. – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA will sponsor an exhibit competition.*

8-9 Apr. – Western Maryland Fall Coin Club Show, Fire Hall #1, 421 National Highway, Lavale, MD. Sat. 9-4, Sun. 10-3.

23 Apr. – Westminster Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

30 Apr. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD; 9-4.

20-21 May – Frederick Coin and Currency Show, Elk Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD; 9-4:30.

MEMBER CLUBS IN GOOD STANDING (* denotes charter)

Western Maryland Coin Club* 662 Greene Street, Suite 2 Cumberland, MD 21502	Baltimore Coin Club * P. O. Box 43681 Baltimore, MD 21236 (410) 284-8382	Belmar Coin Club * 444 Robinhood Road Havre de Grace, MD 21078 ScottSchu@gmail.com
Bowie Coin Club P. O. Box 913 Bowie, MD 20718-0913 bowiecoinclub.com bowiecoinclub@verizon.net	Cambridge Coin Club P. O. Box 932 Cambridge, MD 21613 umesgrad@fastol.com	Carroll County Coin Club* c/o Lester A. White 10 West Main Street Westminster, MD 21157 Les.white.1@juno.com
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Middle River Coin Club * c/o Baltimore County Dept. of Recreation & Parks Victory Villa Community Ctr 404 Compass Road Baltimore, MD 21220	South Glen Burnie Coin Club c/o Darrel King 8017 Clark Station Road Severn, MD 21144 sgbcc.com	St. Maries Coin Club P. O. Box 365 Lusby, MD 20657 smcc.anaclubs.org stmariescoinclub@comcast.net
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